			UNITED STATES DEPARTM United States Patent and T Address: COMMISSIONER OF P Washington, D.C. 20231 www.uspio.gov	ademark Office
APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,118	09/04/2001	Takaharu Hutamura	11-058	1726
20.000	90 11/12/2002	17		
LAW OFFICES OF DAVID G. POSZ 2000 L STREET, N.W. SUITE 200			EXAMINER	
			NGUYEN, DANNY	
WASHINGTON	N, DC 20036		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2836	
			DATE MAILED: 11/12/2002	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/944,118	HUTAMURA ET AL.
Offic Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit
	Danny Nguyen	2836
The MAILING DATE of this communication Period for Reply	app ars on the c ver sheet w	ith the corresp ndence address
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RE THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATIO - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFI after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory pe - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by st - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the m earmed patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	DN. R 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a l. a reply within the statutory minimum of thir riod will apply and will expire SIX (6) MON latute, cause the application to become AB	reply be timely filed ty (30) days will be considered timely. ITHS from the mailing date of this communication. 3ANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on (04 September 2001 .	
	This action is non-final.	
3) Since this application is in condition for all closed in accordance with the practice und		
Disposition of Claims		
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-15</u> is/are pending in the applica	ition.	
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are with	drawn from consideration.	
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.		
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-15</u> is/are rejected.		
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.		
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction an Application Papers	d/or election requirement.	
9) The specification is objected to by the Exam	niner.	
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) a	ccepted or b) objected to by t	he Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to	o the drawing(s) be held in abeya	ance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on	is: a)	isapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in	n reply to this Office action.	
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the	Examiner.	
riority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for fore	eign priority under 35 U.S.C.	§ 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) 🛛 All b) 🗌 Some * c) 🗌 None of:		
1. Certified copies of the priority docum	ents have been received.	
2. Certified copies of the priority docume	ents have been received in A	pplication No
3. Copies of the certified copies of the p application from the International * See the attached detailed Office action for a	Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	-
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for dome		
a) The translation of the foreign language 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for dominant	provisional application has be	een received.
ttachment(s)	-	
) 🔀 Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) 🔲 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) 🔀 Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s	5) 🔲 Notice of I	Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) nformal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Patent and Trademark Office	Action Summary	Part of Paper No. 5

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohya

et. al. (USPN 5,121,011).

Regarding to claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, Ohya et. al. disclose a drive circuit for driving a switching element (see fig. 4) comprises a high-side switching circuit (Tr3) connected between power supply line (Vcc); a low-side switching circuit (Tr4) connected in series with the high-side switching circuit through an output terminal (n1) leading to the switching element (Tr1); a voltage detector (DIV1) detecting a voltage appearing at the output terminal, wherein the low-side switching circuit is controlled to be turned off when the voltage detected by the voltage detector is lower than an off-decision voltage which is defined within a voltage range in which the switching circuit is turned off when the voltage detected by the voltage detector is higher than an on-decision voltage which is defined within a voltage in which the switching circuit is turned off when the voltage detected by the voltage detector is higher than an on-decision voltage which is defined within a voltage range in which the switching circuit is turned off when the voltage detected by the voltage detector is higher than an on-decision voltage which is defined within a voltage range in which the switching element is in off-state (see col. 6, lines 2-7), and wherein the high-side switching circuit is turned off when the voltage detected by the voltage detector is higher than an on-decision voltage which is defined within a voltage range in which the switching element is in off-state (see col. 7, lines 2-10).

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Regarding to claims 2- 4, 8, 12, Ohya et. al. disclose the low-side switching circuit includes an output transistor (Tr1), a pre-driver (Tr13) (see fig. 5) driving the output transistor, a comparing circuit (TC3) comparing the output voltage detected by the voltage detector with the off state decision voltage, and a logic circuit (11b) controlling an operation of the pre-driver base on the result of comparison in the comparing circuit.

Regarding to claims 9 and 14 repeat the limitations of claim 4, therefore rejected accordingly.

Regarding to claims 7 and 13, Ohya et. al. disclose the high-side switching circuit includes an output transistor (Tr2), a pre-driver (Tr11) (see fig. 5) driving the output transistor, a comparing circuit (TC4) comparing the output voltage detected by the voltage detector with the on state decision voltage, and a logic circuit (11a) controlling an operation of the pre-driver base on the result of comparison in the comparing circuit.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)-305-5988. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703)-308-3119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-872-9318 for regular communications and (703)-872-9319 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0956.

DN November 7, 2002

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STEPHEN W. JACKSON PRIMARY EXAMINER

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